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QUEEN'S COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY.

To the Friends and Well-wishers of Queen's University:

OTTAWA, January 1st, 1886.

During the past year Queen's University reached, perhaps, the most critical period in her history. For some time previously a general College scheme for the Province of Ontario had been in preparation, which on the 13th January last was submitted to the Board of Trustees. This scheme, whatever its merits, however attractive some of its features might be considered, involved practically the destruction of the University at Kingston. If carried into effect in its entirety, the scheme would have rendered null and void the Royal Charter granted by our present sovereign forty-four years back ; it would have necessitated the removal of all the effects of Queen's to Toronto and the abandonment of buildings acquired at great cost at different times ; it would have sacrificed a local affection that has grown with the growth and strengthened with the strength of the University ; it would have effected a complete effacement of all those characteristic features which have made Queen's so important a factor in the higher life of the country.

Under the circumstances which arose, the Board of Trustees acted with great prudence and deliberation. They determined to consult all the constituents of Queen's before giving a final reply to the Minister of Education, by whom the scheme was submitted.

The Municipal Corporation and people of Kingston and the County Council of Frontenac were not long in giving expression to their views. The adjacent counties soon followed, and as one man they pronounced emphatically against the scheme.

The graduates and supporters of Queen's from beyond Kingston and its neighbourhood were in due time heard from. No less than 355 communications on this important question were received from every section of Ontario remote from Kingston, and likewise from the other Provinces of the Dominion.

The Toronto scheme, so far as it affected Queen's, was universally condemned by every friend. The opinion expressed in every quarter was substantially the same, viz :

1. That the charter of Queen's University should be upheld in its entirety.
2. That Queen's should forever remain at Kingston carrying on University work.
3. That every effort should be made to increase her efficiency and general usefulness.

Such was the determination come to, and, the better to increase her efficiency and usefulness, meetings were held, *first*, of Graduates, Benefactors, and all interested in any way; *secondly*, of the University Council; *thirdly*, of the Board of Trustees. At these meetings resolutions were passed, suggesting and strongly urging that the friends and well-wishers of Queen's throughout the country should unite in a league or special society for the purpose of effecting the objects set forth.

This is the origin of the organization which has been designated QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ENDOWMENT ASSOCIATION. It must be understood to be a society having special purposes to promote, and quite distinct from any existing University body. It has no immediate connection with any of the teaching or governing organizations. It partakes more of the nature of an outer bulwark of the University, fortified by friends to maintain the integrity, to defend the interests and to promote the well-being of Queen's.

A constitution has been with great care prepared for the new Association, which, after being printed and circulated, has met with general approval.

The constitution briefly sets forth the objects of the Association as follows:

"To further in every possible way the interests and promote the general usefulness of Queen's College and University; and with this end in view to circulate information respecting its condition, aims, purposes and prospects, so as to enlist and secure general sympathy and support."

The constitution provides for enrolling gentlemen as *Members* and ladies as *Associate Members* with the same rights and privileges.

A subscription of one dollar per annum will admit each person to full membership.

The year ending 31st December, 1886, will be the first year of membership.

It is believed that the friends and well-wishers of Queen's thus united in an active organization will be in an infinitely better position to serve the institution than they have ever before been. It is believed that the Association will be capable of accomplishing much good for this the oldest seat of higher education in Ontario. It is believed that Queen's, strengthened and upheld by the Association, will command greater influence and evoke greater public sympathy.

Occasion may at any time arise when the Association will be in a position to prove of eminent service. It is publicly announced that Toronto University has again appealed to the Ontario Government and Legislature for additional revenues to enable it to carry on its work. We have no hostility to Toronto University. We entertain

none but the kindest feelings towards that and all sister institutions. We cordially recognize that Toronto University has done noble work, and we sincerely wish it the fullest measure of success. We give our support to Queen's simply because we believe that she too is filling an important place, and that in the years to come she will fill a still more important place in the intellectual and moral development of the community. We believe that the country requires and that it will continue to require in an ever increasing degree more than one well equipped University, and that the generous rivalry which must result from there being more than one will redound to the educational advantage of the youth of Canada. Such being our conviction, the friends of Queen's can have no objection to the Legislature increasing the endowment of Toronto University, provided it be not implied that Toronto is the only University entitled to such recognition. Many of us think that the Legislature and the Government would act wisely in giving her all the revenue she may require for her legitimate needs, but none of us are able to see that only one University in the Province should be so favored. If Queen's is doing precisely the same kind of work for the community as Toronto, and doing her work equally as well, it is manifestly only just and fair that in some way she too should receive substantial recognition. At an early day it may become the duty of the Association to bring all the facts prominently to public notice, and to claim for Queen's the consideration to which she is entitled. It may soon become the duty of every member of the Association by every honorable means to demand for Queen's University a share of public support proportionate to the public work she is performing.

The Association to be effective must be strong, and as its strength and influence will be largely in proportion to its numbers, it is a matter of very great importance that friends and well-wishers should rally around the new organization.

To-day, January 1st, 1886, we enter on what may be considered the first year of the Association. We can count on heading the roll of members with the names of all the representative graduates and supporters of Queen's, whose communications are appended to the Chancellor's Report on the college scheme, dated 28th April last. These gentlemen declared that every effort should be made to build up and extend the usefulness of Queen's as a University at Kingston. It was their advice that confirmed the Trustees in the wisdom of the course they followed, and as the Association is a natural sequence of the final action of the Trustees, and is aiming to accomplish what these gentlemen so strongly urged, we are fully justified in giving their names the place of honor on the roll of members.

This gives us a nucleus on which to build up a membership; a nucleus that does not embrace the name of any person in Kingston and its neighbourhood, where all are friends of Queen's.

Already branches of the Association are being formed in Toronto, Belleville, Kingston, Brockville, Ottawa and Montreal, and although the exact number of persons who have given their adhesion to the movement is as yet unknown, it would not be a high estimate to place the number with which the Association enters upon its career at about one thousand. I do not doubt that before many weeks the roll of members will be greatly increased.

The movement cannot but prove beneficial to Queen's. That is its sole aim and intention; and an organization for that purpose, with its members in every walk of life, in every section of the country, must carry with it much influence for good. I feel that I am only expressing the wish of those who so strongly advocated the formation of this Queen's University League when I earnestly invite every graduate and alumnus, every benefactor and well-wisher, to become identified with the Association, and without loss of time to signify the desire to be enrolled on the list of members.

SANDFORD FLEMING,
President Queen's U. E. Association.



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